EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2.   Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with James F. Goedken, Reg. No. 44,715 on 10/6/2010.

3.   The claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method for formulating a context representation,

the method comprising:

selecting at least one keyword from a plurality of text items associated with a

computer application being manipulated by a user;

determining an active task being performed by the user via the computer

application;

selecting at least one transformation rule from a plurality of different

transformation rules~~, the at least one transformation rule being selected based on~~

~~the plurality of text items and the active task~~;

generating the context representation by applying the at least one transformation

rule to the at least one keyword, the transformation rule causing the at least one

keyword to be replaced by another keyword; and

storing the context representation in <u>a memory</u> ~~computer readable media~~[[.]]<u>;</u>

<u>wherein the at least one transformation rule is selected based on the plurality of</u>

<u>text items, the active task, a first property associated with the computer application,</u>

<u>and a second property associated with the user.</u>

Claim 2 - 4.   (cancelled)

Claim 5.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the

computer application includes an e-mail application.

Claim 6.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 5, wherein the at

least one transformation rule includes eliminating text included in a signature section

of the e-mail application.

Claim 7.   (cancelled)

Claim 8.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the

active task is determined based on an indication provided by the user.

Claim 9.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 8, wherein the

computer application is associated with content, and the user indicates a subject

matter associated with the content by selecting a button included in a graphical user

interface.

Claim 10.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 1 further

comprising transforming the context representation based on a user input related to

a trait of search.

Claim 11.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 1 further

comprising determining an information source on which an information search

should be conducted based on the active task.

Claim 12.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 11 further

comprising determining a property associated with the information source, wherein

retrieving the at least one transformation rule is based on the property.

Claim 13 - 32.   (cancelled)

Claim 33.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 1, further

comprising submitting a database query based on the context representation.

Claim 34.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the

computer application is being used for a task other than entering search terms for

retrieving information.

Claim 35.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the

computer application includes a web browser, and a type of content associated with the

web browser is electronic mail.

Claim 36.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the

active task is a multi-step active task and the computer application includes an

identifier of a particular step in the multi-step active task.

Claim 37.   (Cancelled)

Claim 38.   (currently amended)A ~~machine readable medium~~ memory storing

software instructions structured to cause a computing device to:

select at least one keyword from a plurality of text items associated with a

computer application being manipulated by a user;

determine an active task being performed by the user via the computer

application;

select at least one transformation rule from a plurality of different transformation

rules~~, the at least one transformation rule being selected based on the plurality of~~

~~text items and the active task~~;

generate the context representation by applying the at least one transformation

rule to the at least one keyword, the transformation rule causing the at least one

keyword to be replaced by another keyword; and

store the context representation in a memory device[[.]];

wherein the at least one transformation rule is selected based on the plurality of

text items, the active task, a first property associated with the computer application,

and a second property associated with the user.

Claim 39.   (cancelled)

Claim 40.   (currently amended)The ~~machine readable medium~~ memory of

claim 38, wherein the computer application includes an e-mail application.

Claim 41.   (currently amended)The ~~machine readable medium~~ memory of

claim 40, wherein the at least one transformation rule includes eliminating text

included in a signature section of the e-mail application.

Claim 42.   (cancelled)

Claim 43.   (currently amended)The ~~machine readable medium~~ memory of

claim 38, wherein the active task is determined based on an indication provided by

the user.

Claim 44.   (currently amended)The ~~machine readable medium~~ memory of

claim 43, wherein the computer application is associated with content, and the user

indicates a subject matter associated with the content by selecting a button included

in a graphical user interface.

Claim 45.   (currently amended)The ~~machine readable medium~~ memory of

claim 38, wherein the software instructions are structured to cause the computing

device to transform the context representation based on a user input related to a trait

of search.

Claim 46.   (currently amended)The ~~machine readable medium~~ memory of

claim 38, wherein the software instructions are structured to cause the computing

device to determine an information source on which an information search should be

conducted based on the active task.

Claim 47.   (currently amended)The ~~machine readable medium~~ memory of

claim 46, wherein the software instructions are structured to cause the computing

device to determine a property associated with the information source, wherein

retrieving the at least one transformation rule is based on the property.

Claim 48.   (currently amended)The ~~machine readable medium~~ memory of

claim 38, wherein the software instructions are structured to cause the computing

device to submit a database query based on the context representation.

Claim 49.   (currently amended)The ~~machine readable medium~~ memory of

claim 38, wherein the computer application is being used for a task other than entering

search terms for retrieving information.

Claim 50.   (currently amended)The ~~machine readable medium~~ memory of

claim 38, wherein the computer application includes a web browser, and a type of

content associated with the web browser is electronic mail.

Claim 51.   (currently amended)The ~~machine readable medium~~ memory of

claim 38, wherein the active task is a multi-step active task and the computer

application includes an identifier of a particular step in the multi-step active task.

Claim 52.   (cancelled)

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4.   The prior art of record when taken individually or in combination do not expressly

teach or render obvious, in the context of the claims taken as a whole, the invention as

recited in the independent claims 1 and 38.

The prior arts of record when taken individually or in combination do not expressly teach or render obvious the invention in the context of claims 1 and 38 as a whole.

Upon further consideration of the findings in the prior arts of record and arguments presented by the applicant in the remark filed on 8/2/2010, the prior arts of record do not teach or suggest explicitly "the at least one transformation rule is selected based on the plurality of text items, the active task, a first property associated with the computer application, and a second property associated with the user" as a whole as recited substantially in independent claims 1 and 38.

Neither a reference uncovered that would have provided a basis of evidence for asserting a motivation, nor one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, knowing the teaching of the prior arts of record would have combined them to arrived at the present invention as recited in the context of independent claims 1 and 38 as a whole.

5.   Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CAMQUY TRUONG whose telephone number is (571)272-3773. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emerson C. Puente can be reached on (571)272-3645. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/QING-YUAN WU/   /Camquy Truong/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2196   Examiner, Art Unit 2196

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